

CZECH UNREST LAID TO WEST

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Soviet Group Accuses Sun Reporter Of Propaganda

By BRUCE WINTERS
[Moscow Bureau of The Sun]

Moscow, Feb. 5—The official newspaper of the Soviet writers union today charged that current "anti-Socialist" unrest in Czechoslovakia is being orchestrated by "the imperialist west."

In a lengthy polemic, the weekly *Literary Gazette* also accused Stuart S. Smith, chief of the Bonn bureau of *The Sun*, of slandering the Czechoslovak working class in his articles.

Mr. Smith, a specialist in East European affairs, was among twelve Western press and television correspondents recently expelled from Czechoslovakia for not holding journalist visas.

"Subversive" Stories

Seeking to link the activities of foreign newsmen to the unrest in Prague since the Soviet occupation, the *Literary Gazette* said:

"The subversive character of Western propaganda is clearly witnessed, in part, on the pages of the French weekly, *Nouvel Observateur*.

"This organ has taken unto itself today the role of a bulwark of anti-Communist propaganda."

"From number to number it prints reactionary anti-Soviet articles. The correspondent of the American newspaper *Baltimore Sun* writes in unison with these articles.

"This correspondent, Stuart Smith, asserts that the Czech trade union movement, which was once a bulwark of the Communist party, has now renounced its conservative past.

"This is where Mr. Smith is rushing—he is trying to slander the working class, to find a chink or loophole through which he might be able to drive a wedge and then demonstrate contradictions between the proletariat and the Communist party of Czechoslovakia."

Excerpted Smith Article

In a dispatch from Vienna in the Tuesday, January 28 edition of *The Sun*, Stuart Smith wrote, in part, that "... the Czech trade union movement once the mainstay of Communist orthodoxy, has renounced its conservative past and become the most powerful progressive force behind the Czechoslovak democratization movement.

"This development, immensely important, is sure to play a major role in future events in Prague and throughout Eastern Europe. . . .

"The year-long trade union reform culminated in last week's Czech Trade Union Congress, which adopted resolutions outspokenly demanding the full restoration of the nation's sovereignty and the complete implementation of a long list of civil rights and legal guarantees."

MORI/CDF